REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 6-9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,212,643 to Yoshida ("Yoshida"), European Patent No. 0 378 271 to De Jong et al. ("De Jong"), United States Patent No. 6,011,494 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe"), and United States Patent No. 6,236,912 B1 to Bomans et al. ("Bomans"). Further, claims 16 and 17 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe, Bomans, and United States Patent No. 6,012,014 to Koyanagi et al. ("Koyanagi")[1].

In this Amendment, Applicants propose to amended claims 2, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, and 17 to more appropriately define their invention. Claims 2, 6-9, and 13-17 remain pending.

Applicants propose to amend independent claim 2 to recite "wherein said microcomputer is configured to output a first character or a first symbol representing a first direction in close proximity to or on one of said arcs," and similarly recited in amended claim 9. Support for these amendments can be found in the Applicants' specification, for example, at page 10, lines 16-22.

Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 6-9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe, and Bomans; and the rejection of claims 16 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

[1] The Final Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting the characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Final Office Action.

unpatentable over Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe, Bomans, and Koyanagi. No *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2, 6-9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe, and Bomans, none of the references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of amended claims 2 and 9. For example, Yoshida at least fails to teach or suggest a "microcomputer [] configured to output a first character or a first symbol representing a first direction in close proximity to or on one of said arcs," as recited in amended claim 2.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner alleges, with respect to the discussion of claims 8 and 15, "Yoshida teaches displaying a symbol representing a direction (the direction of the vehicle) at a specified point (vehicle location). See Yoshida at col. 3, lines 55-59." Office Action, page 7, ¶ 1 (emphasis added). Thus, while Yoshida incorporates the use of a current position indicating mark 12 to "show[] the current position of the vehicle and the running direction thereof," (col. 3, ll. 58 & 59) the scale indication pattern 13b of Yoshida does not give any indication of a direction. In Yoshida, switch patterns 16-19 of Fig. 3 are for "generat[ing] respective control signals for scrolling the maps to be displayed." Col. 3, ln. 67 through col. 4, ln. 1. Accordingly, Yoshida does not teach or suggest a "microcomputer [] configured to output a first character or a first symbol representing a first direction in close proximity to or on one of said arcs," as recited in amended claim 2. Method claim 9 also recites "outputting a first character or a first symbol representing a first direction in close proximity to or on one of said arcs." Therefore, claims 2 and 9 are patentable over Yoshida. (Emphasis added).

Additionally, none of De Jong, Watanabe, Bomans, and Koyanagi teach or suggest the microcomputer of amended claim 2 or the outputting step of amended claim 9. Indeed, the Examiner does not rely on any of these references for teaching arcs, representing an "equidistant curve", let alone "a first character or a first symbol representing a first direction in close proximity to or on . . . [an] arc[]," as recited in amended claim 2 and similarly recited in amended claim 9. Accordingly, these additional references do not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Yoshida. Moreover, claims 6-8 and 13-17 are allowable over these applied references at least due to their corresponding dependence from claims 2 and 9.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 2, 6-9, and 13-17 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 2, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, and 17 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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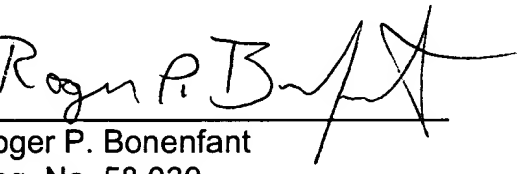
By: 
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